



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS LEADER OF GHANAIAN ORGANIZATION  
THAT BROUGHT HEROIN INTO THE U.S. INSIDE SHOES**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that NANCY FEARON-HALES, a native of Ghana and citizen of the United Kingdom, was convicted by a jury in Manhattan federal court late yesterday on a charge of conspiring to import heroin into the United States.

The one-count Indictment charged FEARON-HALES with participating in a conspiracy with others to import heroin into the United States between November 2002 and May 2003. According to the evidence at trial, the heroin, which originated in Southeast Asia, was transported to Ghana, where it was packed into the soles of shoes. FEARON-HALES recruited couriers to transport the heroin inside the shoes from Ghana to the United States. At FEARON-HALES' direction, the couriers flew from Germany, where they lived, to Ghana, where they picked up the heroin-filled shoes. Wearing the heroin-filled shoes, the couriers then flew back to Germany, and then from Germany to New York, aboard commercial airplanes. Once in New York, the

couriers delivered the shoes with the drugs to a co-conspirator at a hotel near John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The heroin importation conspiracy charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

NANCY FEARON-HALES is scheduled to be sentenced on August 23, 2005, by United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, who presided over the trial.

Yesterday's conviction was the result of a joint investigation involving the United States Attorney's Office, offices of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in New York, Germany, and Ghana, and the Police Headquarters in Leverkusen, Germany.

Mr. KELLEY praised the outstanding investigative efforts of the DEA and law enforcement authorities in Germany.

Assistant United States Attorneys VIRGINIA L. CHAVEZ and SAMIDH GUHA are in charge of the prosecution.

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